

# Peacebuilding

## Supporting Conflict-Affected Countries and Contributing to the Prevention of Conflict and Promotion of Peace



Of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

**Most conflicts are internal disputes that take place in development countries, in particular in the poorest countries and regions. In such disputes, not only the military, but also ordinary citizens become both victims and perpetrators, and**

**therefore the impact on people's lives is significant.**

**In order to contribute to the promotion of peace and prevention of conflict, in support of post-conflict nation-building, JICA is making concerted efforts toward the reconstruction of social capital and economic recovery to solve economic disparities—one cause of conflict—and provide equal opportunities as well as strengthening the state system of governance, thus enhancing security.**

### Overview of Issue

The majority of conflicts in the world today are internal conflicts in developing countries, most of which arise in the poorest countries and regions in economic terms.

These conflicts are characterized by their huge impact on ordinary citizens, and particularly on the socially vulnerable, such as children and the poor. At the same time, the divide between the military and citizens has faded, and cases of ordinary citizens or children becoming perpetrators have been increasing in recent years.

Armed conflicts do more than just destroy the infrastructure that serves as a foundation for people's livelihoods; they also tear the bonds holding the society together and increase mutual distrust and hatred. They destroy and leave a bitter legacy on the

path to reconstruction. According to some statistics, close to 50% of countries return to a state of war within five years of signing a peace or cease-fire agreement.

There are three frameworks for peacebuilding, military, political and social/economic. Military measures and political methods, such as preventive diplomacy, are important factors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the consolidation of peace, as is development aid to correct economic disparities, and improving unequal opportunities and other factors that lead to conflict.

The Japanese government has established peacebuilding as a priority issue within the framework of the ODA Charter and the Medium-term Policy on ODA, and is providing assistance accordingly.

### Case Study Iraq Power Sector Support

#### Restoring Confidence in Government through High-Quality Government Services

**JICA has provided Iraq with a variety of reconstruction support in a combination of ODA Loans, Grant Aid and Technical Cooperation. JICA is striving to assist in improving the country's power supply capacity, an area in which the Iraqi people still have substantial requirements.**

#### Power Outages Longer than Ten Hours a Day

Since 1980, due to three wars and many years of economic sanctions, Iraq has suffered the effects of the destruction and dilapidation of much of its economic and social infrastructure. The electric power sector is no exception. Even now, power outages lasting ten hours or longer in a single day continue in the majority of regions, while the supply capacity, at around 6,000 MW, meets just half of the national demand of approximately 12,000 MW.

In Iraq, where the maximum temperature in summer can reach as high as 50°C, access to electric power can be a matter of life and death. There is a distinct lack of trust with regard to the ongoing power shortages, which the government has failed to rectify even though eight years have passed since the end of the Iraq War, and in

the summer of 2010, large-scale riots broke out in the south of the country. In the administrative services, improving the power supply capacity is similarly considered to be a major challenge.

As a result of this situation, JICA has provided Iraq with ODA Loans specifically for the improvement of power stations, transmission and substation facilities, and is implementing training for Iraqis in collaboration with the electricity authorities of neighboring countries such as Jordan, Egypt and Syria, as well as Japanese electricity companies, to train electrical engineers for roles including power station operation, where there is a shortage of human resources.

A training institute, which was constructed in 1998 in the Jandar Power Plant in Syria with Grant Aid, is being used for training in streamlining the operation, maintenance and management of thermal power stations, as a part of the efforts currently underway to improve electric power services in Iraq.



Equipment for distribution of electricity, provided via an ODA Loan (Erbil, northern part of Iraq (Kurdistan region))

## JICA Activities

JICA is working to contribute to the prevention of both the occurrence and recurrence of armed conflicts, taking into account the perspectives of conflict prevention and peace promotion. JICA has assisted in attempts to alleviate the various difficulties faced by people during and immediately after the conflicts and to subsequently achieve stable development over the medium and long term. Specifically, JICA supports 1) the reconstruction of social capital, 2) economic recovery, 3) rebuilding the state system and functions, and 4) security enhancement.

In a new effort, JICA is supporting the strengthening of government capabilities in order to develop conflict affected communities, while also strengthening the links between central and regional government in post-conflict nation-building processes. For example, in the region of Darfur in Sudan, and

the region under transitional rule close to the north-south border, support is being provided to strengthen administrative functions so that the government can appropriately provide basic services such as water supply, health services and occupational training. In supporting this process, JICA is trying both to improve the capacity of the concerned organizations in terms of implementation and to strengthen the government's coordinating capabilities in order to ensure a suitable budget allocation.

JICA is also engaged in research regarding the best ways to assess projects implemented in conflict-affected countries.

Going forward, JICA will increase the number of projects it supports in conflict-affected countries and regions, and intensify its support in the field of peacebuilding, through efforts such as human resource development to supply experts who can become involved in the process.

### Case Study

## Nepal Democratization Process Support Program

### Creating a Mechanism to Ensure Countries do Not Lapse Back into Conflict

**After emerging from a civil war, Nepal took its first steps as a federal democratic republic in 2008. JICA is providing comprehensive support for the development of a democratic system in Nepal, bearing in mind the objective of creating a mechanism to ensure that the country does not lapse back into conflict.**

#### Resolution Based on the Law

The civil war, which had continued in Nepal for approximately ten years, came to an end in 2006. The monarchy was abolished and the country started on the path toward democratization. However, there were many challenges including political turmoil and interracial confrontation, and contrary to the public expectation, the path toward reform has been difficult. By supporting the democratization process, JICA is aiming to create a mechanism that will guarantee rights for the citizens of Nepal, as set out under the

new constitution.

The basis for this support is the establishment of civil law. JICA's objective is for Nepal to create a foundation for the resolution of conflict through legal channels, by drafting a bill for civil law, and making it into law. The current laws were drawn up 150 years ago and incorporate strong ethical considerations. These have been unfeasible not only as a means for settling the actual problems, but also in respect to international transactions. Accordingly, the parties involved in legislation in Nepal and a Japanese advisory group consulted together a number of times over a period of two years.

The new civil law draft was completed in August 2010, and submitted to the Nepalese Constituent Assembly in January 2011.

#### Support for Media and Community Arbitration

Because the distribution of fair and impartial information to citizens is vital within the democratic political process, JICA is also providing support for media capacity building. The organization is cooperating to help in the revision of media-related bills and to foster a healthy media through efforts that include strengthening the organization of the state-run Radio Nepal.

It will require time to improve the diffusion and application of

support for system creation through efforts such as civil law-related assistance, and in addition, in rural areas, it is not easy to obtain access to judicial administration. On the other hand, considerable opposition and social disorder are being encountered in the course of the democratization process in rural areas. To improve this situation, JICA has been providing support during the transitional phases through the cultivation of "community mediators" to help citizens resolve problems between themselves. Furthermore, from the perspectives of caste, race and gender, JICA hopes to create a foundation for achieving social inclusion. Training has already been implemented for more than 100 people in areas including dispute resolution, careful listening techniques and simulated mediation, as a part of effort to provide these trainees with community mediation know-how.

#### From the Grassroots

#### A Nepalese taking the training course to become a community mediator

Previously, when there was a dispute, we had to visit the home of a major figure in the village and rely on them for mediation. We could be made to wait outside for a number of hours, or turned away at the door and told to return the next day. From now on however, I may be able to resolve not only problems within my own community, but also even disputes between influential figures. This has instilled me with confidence.



A media workshop was held for technicians of the national radio station Radio Nepal

